

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 EB-07

COME-00 TRSE-00 /058 W

----- 101267

R 030814Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO RUMJIA/AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI 3409

AMCONSUL UDORN

SECSTATE WASHDC 9432

CONFIDENTIAL BANGKOK 4810

FOLLOWIMG MSG RECD ACTION BANGKOK FROM SONGKHLA IS REPEATED

TO YOU:

QUOTE

CONFIDENTIAL SONGKHLA 048

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EINV PFOR TH

SUBJECT: TIN STRIKES AND SMUGGLING

REFERENCE: SONGKHLA 032 AND PREVIOUS

1. CONTRARY TO NEWSPAPER REPORTS, MINERS' STRIKE IN PHUKET/PHANG NGA AREA IS NOT OVER. UK FIRMS THAT ARE STRUCK ARE IN BIND OVER WHETHER TO CONTINUE INVESTMENT IN AREA DUE TO ILLEGAL MINING WHICH HAS ALREADY CANCELLED OUT ONE OF THEIR RICHEST CONCESSION AREAS. EMPLOYEES' STRIKE IS PARTLY RELATED TO ILLEGAL MINING, IN THAT FIRMS ARE FORCED TO LAY OFF WORKERS THEY DO NOT NEED SINCE THEY CANNOT GET BACK INTO THEIR OLD CONCESSIONS NOW RULED BY ILLEGAL MINERS CONTROLLED BY GANGSTER SYNDICATES.

2. ILLEGAL MINING BECOMING SO LUCRATIVE THAT IT EVEN LOSING SOME OF ITS PREVIOUS TAINT. SEVERAL REASONABLY RESPECTABLE

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MINERS AND BUSINESSMEN FROM OTHER AREAS IN SOUTH ARE NOW

OUTFITTING BOATS TO PLUCK OFF EASY PICKINGS, FIGURING THAT
SINCE RTG ISN'T DOING ANYTHING ABOUT SITUATION, BONANZA
CANNOT BE PASSED UP.

3. REPORTEDLY, SMUGGLING TIN TO MALAYSIA IS NOW CONTROLLED
BY EXCELLENT ADMINISTRATOR WHO HANDLING ENTIRE OPERATION SMOOTHLY
AND ALSO TAKING CARE OF LOCAL RTG OFFICIALS QUITE NICELY.
AS MENTIONED PREVIOUS REFTELS, SERIOUSLY DOUBT WE ARE GOING
TO SEE MUCH POSITIVE CHANGE IN SITUATION WHICH HAS BEEN OUT
OF RTG CONTROL FOR NEARLY TWO YEARS NOW AND LIKELY CONTINUE
FOR SOME TIME.

CASTRODALE
UNQUOTE
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

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